

Sustainable Libraries Initiative Report

Mamakating Library 2023



Mamakating Library
128 Sullivan Street
Wurtsboro, NY



Organizational Commitment

The initial discussions regarding undertaking this project began in 2021. The following policies have been developed and/or modified to better reflect our commitment to the principles of this initiative.

- Environmental Impact & Sustainability Policy
- Purchasing Policy
- Programming Policy
- Travel Policy
- Collection Development Policy
- Records Retention & Disposition Policy
- Sustainable Purchasing Policy
- Emergency & Disaster Policy




Organizational Commitment

The Mamakating Library renewed their commitment to the sustainability of our library & community in the summer of 2023 by editing our Mission Statement to better reflect our positions.

Mission Statement

The Mamakating Library provides quality materials, services and programs which fulfill educational, informational, cultural and recreational needs of the community we serve in an atmosphere that is welcoming and respectful. The library commits to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our programming and collection and strives to continually strengthen our community capacity for resilience through partnerships with community organizations.



Outdoor Spaces

The Mamakating Library is lucky to have a group of dedicated and talented local gardeners. Together they helped us complete many of these items.



Pollinator Gardens with Rain Collection Barrel & Compost Bin



Children work with Master Gardeners to design & plant a drought resistant, native garden on property



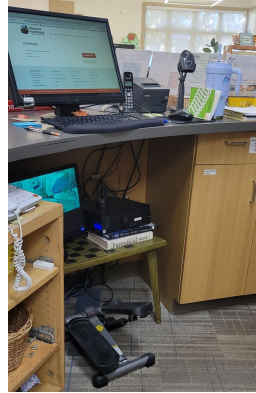
Native Gardens on our property draw local wildlife

Indoor Spaces

- Our Library's custodial workers participated in our SLI committee & ensured that all of our cleaning products are EPA approved & non-aerosol.
- MERV-13 filters are used to improve air quality



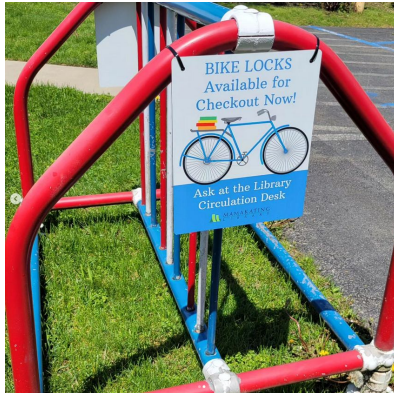
Flexible workstations allow for standing & movement if staff prefer this to seated work positions



All of the work stations & patron areas have natural light & windows for ventilation. Indoor plants help keep the air clean too

Transportation

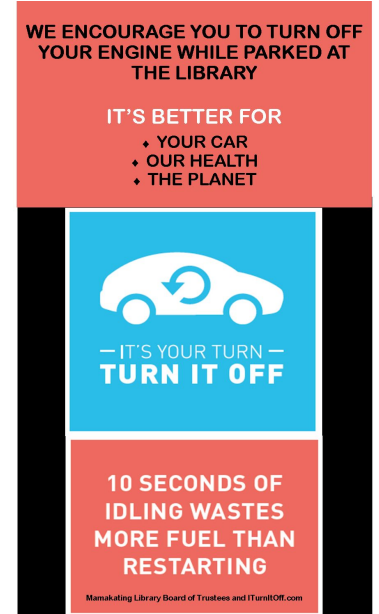
- New travel policy implemented
- Encouraging public transportation
- No-idling signage
- Telecommuting option for non-public facing staff
- Staff utilize web-based meeting options when possible



Bike rack, bike locks & bike repair information encourages patrons & staff to use bicycles



Public bus schedules prominently displayed in our windows & benches available on property to relax while waiting



Parking Lot signage encourages drivers not to idle their vehicles while visiting the library

Energy

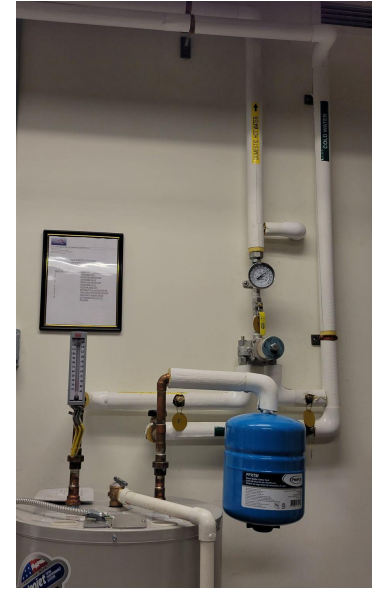
- Replaced fluorescent bulbs with ballast compatible LEDs to reduce energy consumption
- Motion sensors equipped in rooms where appropriate
- Outdoor lights are photosensitive
- All patron/staff devices & peripherals are shutdown at close each day
- All important documents are stored via cloud based servers
- The exterior of the building is light in color to reflect sunlight



Water

Our Leak Detection Plan, has served us well!

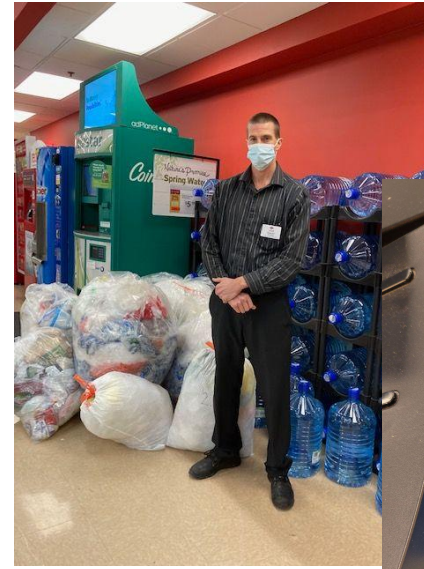
- In 2019 a leak was detected in the soaker hose system
 - We've since stopped using this system, planted more drought resistant plants and utilize rain barrels to water the plants instead.
- In 2022 a leak was detected in the water heater
 - In mitigating this issue we discovered the cause was a water pressure setting which, once corrected has helped us save water.



Well insulated pipes help to conserve energy

Materials

- Sustainable Purchasing Policy guides our buying decisions
- Most supplies are purchased in bulk to reduce emissions of frequent deliveries
- Bottle refill station installed to reduce plastic waste
- Printer/copier settings changed to reduce waste
- Paper waste reused as scrap paper
- Recycling bins provided in patron & staff area
- Kitchen dishes/utensils are reusable
- Reusable canvas totes promoted at checkout
- Staff utilize the compost bin on property
- Toner Cartridges are recycled
- Library is a collection location for plastic via TREX and has collected over 4500 lbs of plastic



A volunteer delivers plastic to be recycled



Signs on copiers/printers encourage patrons to scan instead of printing

Collective Impact

- Supporting Town Master Plans
 - Unique Businesses: The Library is home to the only used book store in town
 - Promote Eco-Tourism through Full Moon Bike Rides & trail walks led by the Bashakill Area Association, a local environmental organization
 - Attending/participating in the Farmer's Markets, Founders Day, Fall Fest & other local outreach events
- Voter Registration Events
- BallotReady featured on the library website



Local Partnerships

- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Town of Mamakating
- Monticello Central School District
- Mamakating Environmental Education Center
- Bashakill Area Association
- Orange County Audubon Society
- D&H Canal Interpretive Center
- Catholic Charities
- Ellenville Regional Rural Health Network
- Wolf Lake Neighbors Foundation
- Friends of Mamakating Library
- Sullivan 180
- Catskill Claws Mountain Biking
- Every Person Influences Children (EPIC)
- Hudson Valley Estate Planning
- Grassroots Yoga
- Wurtsboro Arts Alliance
- Mamakating Historical Society
- Citizen Preparedness Corps
- NYS Assembly Offices

And dozens of dedicated volunteers!



Social Cohesion

- Staff are encouraged to take a walk or a “brain break” during the work day
- All Staff are completing “Cross Cultural Communicators Training” this fall
- Repair Cafe programs bring together a cross section of the community
- First responder leave time benefit for staff
- Full Moon Bike Rides encourage multi-generational connection & use of local resources
- Voter registration events encourage civic engagement

Drum circle program
at the Sullivan County
Youth Book Festival



Bi-lingual summer
storytime in the
children's garden




Resilience Planning

- A generator installed in 2023 will allow us to be a heating/cooling/distribution center in the case of a local emergency
- Region-specific environmental programming is regularly provided through collaboration with local organizations
- Emergency & Disaster policy updated to reflect current best practices & trends in the industry



Regular repair cafe programs encourage community sustainability & connection

Financial Sustainability

- Staff have access to retirement plan & health insurance
 - Staff salaries exceed the amount calculated on the MIT Living Wage Calculator for our area
 - In 2022, the library provided a 720% return on the town's investment via services and materials provided
 - A capital reserve fund was established in 2021 to save for future improvements
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Collections

- Collection Development Policy includes weeding parameters
- Records Retention Policy adopted April 2023
- When books are weeded for condition, consideration is given to replacing as ebook or audio book
- Weeded books in good condition are used for prizes or sold at outreach events and in the used book store run by the library's Friends organization



Weeded & donated books are placed in the Friends Group run used bookshop & sold to raise funds for future projects

Ongoing Sustainability Plans

- Sustainability Celebration Planned for Spring 2024
- Replace faucets/toilets with more efficient models when necessary
- Generator installation Fall 2023 will enable us to be a heating/cooling/supply distribution site for our community in hard times
- We will continue to monitor green energy suppliers and switch when pricing is comparable to current supplier
- Partner with the food pantry next door to donate unused food from events
- Continue to work towards diverse representation in Board of Trustees



Sustainability Committee Members

Janet Lybolt

Margaret Perkins

Peggy Johansen

Pamela Rice

Jackie Broder

Cheryl Jones

Liz Hrabowsky

